

FINANCERS UP THE MARKET.

Returning from a Morning's Fishing He Ate Heartily and Was Seized with Indigestion—Doctors Were Summoned by Special Train, but Despite Their Efforts He Passed Away at 11 p. m.—His Wife Was with Him at the Time.



Roswell P. Flower Playing Golf.

moment's notice, not knowing whether he was bound.

After Jamaica there was a rush and a roar. The speed was soon fifty, quickly rising to sixty, then to seventy, and at times to seventy-five miles per hour. The single car jerked, swayed and twisted. Each occupant had to cling to his seat, and conversation was only in snatches. A thirteenth there was a slack-up, and the other long, sliding stop of a fast train. "Hot box," yelled the engineer, and the train crew gathered around while the contents of the water tank were poured on a sizzling driving wheel. Fifteen minutes were lost here. "We've got to make up that fifteen minutes," was the thought of every one. When the train started again it fairly flew.

Out along the meadows, past millionaires' cottages and squatters' huts, flying glimpses of rambling country were wandering in such unceasing speed.

At a country road a frightened man whipped his startled horses over the track ahead, the train missing him by a narrow margin that his hat was blown off.

FROM A PLOUGH BOY TO KING OF WALL ST.

Remarkable Career of Ex-Governor Flower, Who Scorns a Dishonest Deed.

I.—FOLLOWING THE PLOUGH.

ROSWELL PETTIBONE FLOWER, now one of the millionaires of Wall Street, had the same homely early career that Russell Sage and so many big financiers passed through, and which, it seems, fits a man peculiarly for the nerve, trying life of a big investor.

He was born nearly sixty-four years ago on a farm at Theresa, Jefferson County, this State, the date being August 7, 1835. His family have lived in this State since 1690. His father, Nathan Monroe Flower, was a wool carrier and cloth dresser at Cooperstown.

There were nine children, Roswell being the sixth. He passed his early life ploughing and digging, and the clothes he wore did not reach him until they had been discarded by several brothers. The family was very poor; in fact, riches were not common anywhere in the State then.

"My mother taught us boys that there was nothing so contemptible as a coward nor so mean as a liar," said Mr. Flower only a few days ago, and he learned the lesson well. His coat-of-arms bears the motto, "Mens Conscia Recti," or "A mind alive to the right."

Young Flower did not mean to pass his life in the hayfield. He studied and taught school, boarding around, Yankee fashion. He engaged his pupils by thrashing them. During the time he was back in Water-town looking for a job. He got it in the post office.

II.—HE ACCUMULATES CAPITAL.

Young Flower as postal clerk received a salary of \$50 a month and his board. He saw that there was more chance for a man who had something saved up than that he relied entirely on accumulated experience,

Properties in Which Mr. Flower's Fortune Is Chiefly Invested.	
Chicago and Eastern Illinois, stock	\$11,028,500
Chicago and Eastern Illinois, bonds	20,736,000
Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, stock	50,000,000
Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, bonds	65,071,000
Federal Steel Co., stock	99,251,000
Federal Steel Co., bonds	29,951,000
International Paper Co., stock	36,570,000
International Paper Co., bonds	12,034,747
New York Air Brake, stock	5,000,000
People's Gas Company, stock	28,750,000
People's Gas Company, bonds	34,748,000
Brooklyn Rapid Transit, stock	45,000,000
Brooklyn Rapid Transit, bonds	21,076,000
Amalgamated Copper Co., stock	75,000,000
Kingston and Pembroke Railway	4,500,000
Lanyou Zinc Smelter	10,000,000
Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., stock	12,956,450
Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., bonds	3,500,000
New York Gas, Electric Light, Heat and Power	25,000,000
Colonial Trust Co.	1,500,000
Corn Exchange Bank	1,500,000
Metropolitan Trust Co.	1,000,000
National Surety Co.	100,000
United States Casualty Co.	300,000
Total	\$894,570,197

and the inevitable reaction came.

As is always the case when big operations are being carried on Wall Street, all sorts of rumors were current. Some of them succeeded, and here and there the buyers and sellers who had retained most of his windings.

Once, while he was trout fishing on Long Island, he caught a fish, his stock had \$2,000,000, and statisticians put it that each fish cost him \$200,000. If that were so, when he put them in quarantine quarters available, and the Legislature was not in session.

Governor Flower provided the funds from his own pocket to buy a hotel on Fire Island and part of the island. The enraged him doctors of the place turned in force to repel the landing of the passengers, fearing that they would all get cholera or that the market value of their stocks might suffer. Clannish digests of votes, and some one suggested that they be handled diplomatically on that account.

Then he was in the market for his famous "Damn the votes" remark. It increased his popularity and his party lost no votes.

VI.—HIS POLITICAL CAREER.

Mr. Flower believed that no man could be successful in politics who was not a strict partisan. He was a friend of the young political worker and did what he could to push him forward. Once he said to Samuel J. Tilden:

"I do not believe you will be the next chairman of the State Committee."

"Why not?" asked Tilden.

"Because," replied Mr. Flower, "you do not seem to recognize the fact that men under fifty are insignificant in politics."

This set Mr. Tilden to thinking and was the seed from which sprang the famous "Damn the votes" remark.

In 1881 Mr. Flower was nominated for Congress in the Eleventh District. Levi P. Morton had represented the district but had resigned to become Minister to France. Mr. Flower's opponent was William Waldorf Astor, whom he defeated.

In Congress Mr. Flower became prominent and influential. He was a member of the Committee on Banking and began to study carefully all the financial problems of the country.

During a debate in the House on a proposed bond issue of \$10,000,000 by this city and the city's financial condition, the issue was questioned.

"I will take every one of them at par," said Mr. Flower, "and pay the city in cash for them."

Mr. Flower was an advocate of the Mills bill and an enemy of the McKinley tariff.

One day Daniel Drew called on him, bringing him a big bunch of ropes. After he left Flower asked:

"What do you mean by that?"

"Keep a bunch of ropes," said Drew, "and you will be able to handle any situation."

Mr. Flower was a champion of the cause of the farmer, and he was always ready to help him. He was a warm champion of the cause of the farmer, and he was always ready to help him.

During the recent campaign he made several speeches for the Democratic candidates.

VI.—A BIG WALL STREET LEADER.

Gradually Mr. Flower became a king in finance. He had been accumulating money by the silent methods that win in finance in everything else.

"Uncle" Flower was a character. Lovable, genial, fond of good stories, as accessible in his banking office as when he sold watches in Watertown, he took a commanding place in the street almost before any one realized it. In Wall Street it is a case always of "The king is dead; long live the king."

At the beginning of the present year Flower became king of the street. He went into the street convinced that honest methods were the best.

"In general," he said, "I would say never do a mean thing, but know how to do it better way of becoming rich than always to be sober, honest, industrious, economical. Be true to your employer, and you will save all you can without parsimony and invest your savings in improved real estate or in anything that is honestly managed and makes money out of real profits."

His maxim was to be merry, take things easily and not to worry. He played golf and made money out of it. He was doing those things Wall Street might hang for all he cared.

His optimistic frame of mind put him on the right side of the market during the recent enormous bull movement. He had confidence in the country.

While croakers thought the war with Spain would retard prosperity, he sided up correctly as a mere flea bite and invested millions in securities that yielded up on Federal Steel, the big trust that his brains formed; Rock Island, in which he had been a leading spirit for years; Chicago Gas, Brooklyn Rapid Transit, American Tobacco, Metropolitan Tobacco, New York Air Brake and several gas investments. These increased in price to the amount of millions, and Flower and all his friends simply rolled in money.

He believed in America at the right time. He insisted that a period of prosperity was upon us. The stock values climbed monotonously—climbed too much, perhaps—



The Flower Coat of Arms.

relief and protection of the passengers. On the morning of September 10 the Governor, who was in Syracuse, heard that the island could not be had unless a large sum was paid in cash. This he furnished out of his own means the same day. These messages tell the story.

New York, Sept. 10, 1892.

Hon. R. P. Flower, Syracuse, N. Y.

David S. Sanborn, owner of Fire Island, will give me immediate possession, but requires payment of \$50,000 cash before possession is made, also that the balance of purchase money, \$100,000 shall be paid within six months.

Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 10, 1892.

W. J. Jenkins, Hoffman, New York.

For \$50,000 cash and draw on Flower & Co. for \$50,000 cash, I am responsible for the balance within six months. Engage a lawyer and see that the title is perfect.

ROSWELL P. FLOWER

New York, Sept. 10, 1892.

Hon. R. P. Flower, Syracuse, N. Y.

God bless you for one of the noblest acts of your life. The people of the United States will applaud your act, and the State of New York, through its chosen representatives, will hasten to return you the money you have so generously advanced for the relief of the sufferers.

Here are a few quotations from the State papers of Governor Flower:

"For the first time in more than seventy-five years, the Executive is able to announce to the Legislature that the State is entirely free from debt."

"What the lower end of Manhattan Island is to be, the people of the United States, in the opinion of the State Printing Office, will be decided by the people of the State."

The right of challenge, exercised intelligently and judiciously, is a necessary part of the system of defense against corruption, and will greatly assist in frightening dishonest voters from the polls."

The closest scrutiny should be applied to all contracts for the construction of new additional offices, and should not receive legislative sanction until its need is established beyond all doubt."

"The State Printing Office is now the most modern school system than I do. It is the grand hope in which the untrained juvenile mind is nurtured, and it is the only one in which the Bohemian or American parentage, with their hereditary ideas and habits, are furnished with the means of acquiring a thorough and useful education, and it is the only one in which the children of the poor are given the same opportunity as the children of the rich."

Profuse promises betray generous intentions. The more they are made, the more they are broken. I prefer that my children should be brought up in the habits of industry and economy, and that they should be able to support themselves by their own hands, than that they should be dependent on the bounty of others."

Annual address, January 1, 1892.

and restoratives, Mr. Seidl died in great agony.

An autopsy was held the following day, and the cause of death was given as heart failure due to over indulgence in shad roe, which had been tainted and showed evidence of ptomaine poison.

Mounting Guns at 'Frisco.

San Francisco, May 12.—The defenses of this harbor are rapidly being strengthened. The work under way now is the mounting of the second battery of sixteen mortars on the bluffs above and back of Fort Winfield Scott. Eight of the huge pieces of ordnance are already in position. In addition to the mortars, a 12-inch rifle and dismountable carriage are ready for shipment from the East. A number of other big guns of modern type will be placed in position as soon as they are received here.

CLOTHES FOR A SONG.

GREAT BARGAINS ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE GREAT ASSIGNEE CLOTHING SALE.

Any person desiring a first-class bargain in clothing should pay a prompt visit to 838 Broadway.

One of the largest clothing houses in the city has failed, and its immense stock, appraised at over \$100,000, is now at 838 Broadway, one door from the corner of 13th St. It consists of Spring and Summer suits, overcoats and trousers for men, youths and children, and it will be sold at 50 per cent below their actual cost to the manufacturer. This is done in order to effect an immediate settlement with the creditors. It will pay one to attend this sale. It opens this (Saturday) morning and will continue for twenty-one days only. These are some of the bargains offered:

Men's Worsted and Cash Spring and Summer suits at \$3.95; English worsted diagonal dress suits at \$7.00; imported worsted Prince Alberts, silk and satin lined, at \$9.95; men's striped trousers at \$3.00; they are heavily worn, but in all styles \$2.40; men's English all-wool cloth cloth Spring overcoats, in all the latest shades and in all styles \$18.00; men's imported blue and black English serge suits, with silk and satin lined, at \$12.00; actually worth \$22, and other extraordinary bargains; men's blue and black serge suits of the very best of workmanship and the very best trimming, at \$6.00; they are positively worth \$14.50; men's heavy large variety in all shades, in coats and vests and serge coats. The goods are being sold at a very low price, and the opportunity is really buying two suits for the price usually paid for one of the same quality, and every man is more than satisfied with his silk and satin lined, at \$12.00 to get first-class clothing at bottom prices is really a great opportunity, and it will pay handsomely all readers of this paper to attend this sale. The goods will be sold at 50 per cent below their actual cost, and the sale will continue for twenty-one days only. These are some of the bargains offered, and Saturday night until 10 o'clock.

DEEP GRIEF AT THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB.

Former Commissioner Martin Says Mr. Flower Told Him He Was Feeling Well on Thursday.

News of former Governor Flower's death was carried to the Democratic Club, of which he was formerly the president. It produced a great shock among the members, with whom Mr. Flower was very popular. Former Police Commissioner James J. Martin, who was an intimate terms with the former Governor, was overwhelmed with astonishment and grief.

"Wh," said Mr. Martin, "I saw the Governor yesterday at his office. He said he never felt better in his life, and that he was going on a fishing expedition off Long Island. It cannot be possible that he is dead!"

Mr. Flower made a splendid Governor. He was one of the strongest men in the Democratic party. His influence was great. As a financier he had few equals. His death will be a tremendous loss to the political and financial world.

It is likely that a special meeting of the Democratic Club will be called for tomorrow to arrange for sending a delegation to the funeral.

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